

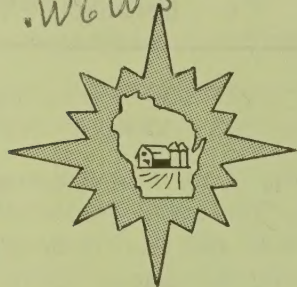
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# WISCONSIN Farm Reporter

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VI, NO. 2

PROCUREMENT SECTION  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

December 1973

## Cream of the News

November milk prices in Wisconsin are expected to average \$8.25 a hundredweight, the ninth consecutive month that milk prices established new records.

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during November continued below a year earlier with Wisconsin down 5 percent and the Nation 4 percent.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers declined slightly from October to November as lower prices for most livestock and some crops offset increases for milk, oats, and hay.

Corn plant population in Wisconsin and most Corn Belt States showed slight to moderate declines in 1973.

Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks at Wisconsin assembly points increased for the ninth consecutive month during November.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of November were above a year ago for the first time in almost two years.

Beef cattle and hog prices declined for the third straight month at the St. Paul market in November.

Red meat production in Wisconsin during October was 5 percent above the previous year as increased beef supplies offset lower pork production.

The Nation's cold storage stocks of butter on November 30 were down sharply from a year earlier but cheese stocks were about the same as on that date in 1972.

Wisconsin farmers went into the winter season with nearly all crops harvested and considerable progress made on land preparation for next year after an excellent fall for field work.

All hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1 totaled 1,575,000, up 7 percent from a year earlier.

Weekly estimates indicate that butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation will continue lower in November but American cheese production will be up from the previous year.

## NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM 1972

Production of milk on Wisconsin farms during November totaled 1,322 million pounds, a decline of 5 percent from last year. Wisconsin's milk production has been running under a year ago since January 1973. November's output of milk was down about 3 percent seasonally from October compared with a drop of 7 percent for those months in 1972. From January through November, milk production in Wisconsin was 4 percent below the corresponding period last year. This decline in milk production has been due to a lower output per cow and fewer milk cows on farms. Production per cow for November averaged 735 pounds, down 25 pounds from a year earlier.

The Nation's milk production during November was 4 percent below a year ago. During the past 11 months of 1973, output of milk in the Nation was down 3 percent from the same period in 1972. All of the major producing states were under the previous year except California which showed a gain of 1 percent.

Milk Production

Selected States	Nov. 1972	Nov. 1973	Jan.-Nov. 1973	Change from last year	
				Nov.	Jan.-Nov.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . . . .	1,392	1,322	17,374	- 5	- 4
Minnesota . . . . .	658	654	8,701	- 1	- 1
Iowa . . . . .	326	312	4,049	- 4	- 3
New York . . . . .	737	705	8,868	- 4	- 6
Pennsylvania . . . . .	543	519	6,162	- 4	- 5
California . . . . .	818	807	9,642	- 1	+ 1
Other states . . . . .	4,513	4,343	52,906	- 4	- 2
United States . . . . .	8,987	8,662	107,702	- 4	- 3

## MILK PRICE CONTINUES TO BREAK RECORDS

Prices received by Wisconsin dairy farmers in November are expected to average \$8.25 a hundredweight for all milk of average test. This would be 28 cents above October and the ninth consecutive month that milk prices established new records. A year ago the average price for all milk sold in November was \$5.92 a hundredweight.

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WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Statistical Reporting Service



Milk prices for October averaged \$7.97 a hundredweight, up 49 cents from September and \$2.17 above a year earlier. Milkfat content averaged 3.82 percent in October compared with 3.84 percent last year.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$8.11 a hundredweight during October, an increase of 50 cents from the previous month and \$2.16 higher than October 1972. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$7.77 a hundredweight for October, up 47 cents from September and \$2.17 more than a year ago. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 34 cents in October, 1 cent narrower than in October 1972.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	September 1973		October price per cwt.			Nov. 1973 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1972	1973	73/72 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin .....	3.70	7.48	5.80	7.97	+ 37	8.25
Minnesota .....	3.61	7.00	5.40	7.61	+ 41	7.70
Iowa .....	3.61	7.10	5.61	7.72	+ 38	8.00
New York .....	3.57	8.50	7.15	8.75	+ 22	8.85
California .....	3.51	6.65	5.66	7.15	+ 26	7.80
United States .....	3.61	7.81	6.38	8.29	+ 30	8.55
Wis. utilization						
Market milk .....	3.70	7.61	5.95	8.11	+ 36	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.71	7.30	5.60	7.77	+ 39	xxx
Creameries .....	3.72	7.19	5.59	7.40	+ 32	xxx
Cheese factories ..	3.71	7.30	5.61	7.80	+ 39	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.71	7.32	5.54	7.70	+ 39	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	October 1972	Sept. 1973	October 1973 1/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses .....	5.27	7.08	7.30	+ 39
Market milk .....	5.40	7.20	7.43	+ 38
Manufacturing milk .....	5.10	6.89	7.12	+ 40
Creameries .....	4.98	6.77	6.78	+ 36
American cheese plants .....	5.13	6.86	7.15	+ 39
Varied products plants .....	5.00	6.91	7.07	+ 41
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone 3/..	5.76	7.30	7.62	+ 32

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary. 3/Includes Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and Winnebago County, Illinois.

## — PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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CHEESE AND BUTTER  
PRODUCTION REMAINS DOWN

Production of cheese and butter in the Nation during October remained under a year ago. Total cheese production for October was down 3 percent from last year. Although output of American cheese was about the same as October 1972 and Italian production was up 5 percent, Swiss cheese production declined 30 percent, Brick and Muenster dropped 2 percent, and all other varieties were down 14 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	October 1972	October 1973	Jan.-Oct. 1973	Change from last year	
				October	Jan.-Oct.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin . . . . .	13,128	13,100	154,730	n. c.	- 10
Minnesota . . . . .	15,622	14,650	188,920	- 6	- 18
Iowa . . . . .	5,791	2,900	54,540	- 50	- 26
Other states . . . . .	40,663	32,066	396,257	- 21	- 16
United States . . . . .	75,204	62,716	794,447	- 17	- 16
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin . . . . .	54,946	52,200	621,050	- 5	- 1
Minnesota . . . . .	14,385	19,740	195,160	+ 37	+ 23
Missouri . . . . .	6,268	4,850	63,750	- 23	- 22
Other states . . . . .	43,858	42,780	523,965	- 2	- 4
United States . . . . .	119,457	119,570	1,403,925	n. c.	- 1
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss . . . . .	15,514	10,810	144,217	- 30	- 3
Brick and Muenster . .	5,577	5,490	56,399	- 2	n. c.
Italian . . . . .	41,418	43,409	454,699	+ 5	+ 6
All other . . . . .	17,485	15,069	163,011	- 14	+ 6
Total . . . . .	79,994	74,778	818,326	- 7	+ 4
ALL CHEESE					
United States . . . . .	199,451	194,348	2,222,251	- 3	+ 1
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/ . . . . .	64,315	59,829	659,674	- 7	- 1
Creamed 2/ . . . . .	82,370	76,923	842,907	- 7	- 3
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin . . . . .	1,432	1,400	14,430	- 2	- 12
Illinois . . . . .	3,310	3,230	38,660	- 2	+ 7
Iowa . . . . .	605	680	6,750	+ 12	+ 1
Michigan . . . . .	2,653	2,840	30,565	+ 7	+ 5
Minnesota . . . . .	2,406	2,470	25,960	+ 3	+ 2
Other states . . . . .	49,478	53,069	562,443	+ 7	+ 2
United States . . . . .	59,884	63,689	678,808	+ 6	+ 2

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

Wisconsin's production of American cheese in October was 52 million pounds, a decline of 5 percent from a year earlier. Minnesota increased its American cheese output 37 percent from October 1972 but Missouri was down 23 percent and all other states had a drop of 2 percent.

The Nation's creameries churned 17 percent less butter in October than a year ago. Butter output in the Nation has been under a year earlier since February 1972. While Wisconsin's butter production during October was nearly equal to last year, Minnesota was down 6 percent. Iowa produced only half as much butter in October as a year ago and other states had a decline of 21 percent.

Production of cottage cheese in the Nation for October was 7 percent below October 1972. Ice cream production in the Nation during October was 6 percent more than the previous year.



## BUTTER PRODUCTION REMAINS LOWER BUT AMERICAN CHEESE OUTPUT RISES

Weekly estimates of butter production in the Nation during November indicate that churnings will remain well below a year earlier. Butter production for November is expected to be 17 percent under last year, the same decline as shown in October and nearly equal to the 16 percent reduction for January through October. Churnings of butter in Wisconsin creameries during November was also lower than a year ago after showing no change in October. The State's butter production during January through October was down 10 percent from those months in 1972.

According to weekly estimates, production of American cheese in the Nation during November could be 11 percent more than a year earlier. October's output was about the same as last year but production from January through October was 1 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1972. Wisconsin's American cheese production in November may also be above a year ago after showing a 5 percent decline in October and a 1 percent drop from January through October.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1973	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
October . . .	62,716	- 17	n. c.	119,570	n. c.	- 5
Jan.-Oct. . .	794,447	- 16	- 10	1,403,925	- 1	- 1
Weeks ending						
Nov. 8 . .	13,450	- 22	- 12	27,550	+ 10	+ 5
Nov. 15 . .	14,100	- 17	- 1	27,250	+ 11	+ 5
Nov. 22 . .	12,950	- 14	+ 6	27,150	+ 13	+ 8
Nov. 29 . .	16,000	- 16	- 6	29,600	+ 10	+ 2
Total . . . .	56,500	- 17	xxx	111,550	+ 11	xxx

## WHOLESALE CHEESE PRICES INCREASE AGAIN

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points increased again during November. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 86.33 cents a pound for November, up more than 2 cents from October and the ninth consecutive month of higher wholesale cheddar cheese prices. A year ago cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged just 63 cents a pound.

Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 93½ cents a pound in November. This was a gain of

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	November 1972	October 1973	November 1973 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	70.31¢	3/	77.04¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. block, pound 2/ . . . .	63.01¢	84.22¢	86.33¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/ . . . . .	75.86¢	91.00¢	93.50¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range . . . . .	\$8.10-9.10	\$10.65-10.93	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound . . . . .	34.99¢	50.82¢	51.04¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points. 3/Too few reports to determine a price.

2½ cents from the previous month and was 17.64 cents above November 1972.

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter at the New York market averaged slightly over 77 cents a pound in November, nearly 6¾ cents more than last year.

## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX SLIGHTLY LOWER

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers averaged 541 percent of the 1910-14 base as of mid-November, down 1 point from a month earlier. Lower prices for most livestock and some crops offset increases for milk, oats, and hay. The prices received index however was 38 percent above November 1972.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Nov. 15, 1971	Nov. 15, 1972	Oct. 15, 1973	Nov. 15, 1973
Dollars					
Milk cows . . . . .	Head	415.00	480.00	620.00	615.00
Steers and heifers . .	Cwt.	29.00	32.20	42.00	36.60
Cows . . . . .	Cwt.	20.80	25.00	34.00	30.20
Calves . . . . .	Cwt.	41.00	47.50	67.00	56.40
Hogs . . . . .	Cwt.	19.00	26.60	39.80	39.80
Sheep . . . . .	Cwt.	5.30	6.30	11.50	10.50
Lambs . . . . .	Cwt.	24.00	26.30	28.80	28.60
Wool . . . . .	Lb.	.21	.41	.50	.53
Chickens 1/ . . . . .	Lb.	.085	.095	.220	.215
Turkeys . . . . .	Lb.	.220	.240	.370	.370
Eggs . . . . .	Doz.	.290	.330	.580	.580
Corn . . . . .	Bu.	1.04	1.16	2.15	2.13
Oats . . . . .	Bu.	.69	.78	1.15	1.20
Soybeans . . . . .	Bu.	2.83	3.30	5.70	5.04
Alfalfa hay, baled . .	Ton	21.50	31.00	29.00	30.50

1/Excludes broilers.

Beef cattle prices weakened for the third consecutive month. Steers and heifers averaged \$36.60 a hundredweight as of November 15, down 5.40 from a month earlier and \$13.40 below the record price reached in August. The mid-November price for steers and heifers was \$4.40 higher than last year. Slaughter cows averaged \$30.20 a hundredweight in November, a decline of 3.80 from the previous month but \$5.20 above a year ago.

Hog prices remained unchanged from October to November but at \$39.80 a hundredweight were \$14.50 under the top achieved in August. The November hog price was \$13.20 more than in November 1972 however.

Calves averaged \$56.40 a hundredweight for mid-November, a sharp drop of \$10.60 from the previous month but still almost \$9.00 above last year.

Sheep and lamb prices were down in November from a month earlier. Sheep averaged \$10.50 a hundredweight on November 15, a decline of \$1.00 from October but \$4.20 more than November 1972. Lambs, at \$28.60 a hundredweight for November, were 20 cents below October but \$2.30 higher than a year ago. The mid-November wool price of 53 cents a pound was up 3 cents from the previous month and 12 cents above last year.

Egg prices averaged 58 cents a dozen as of November 15, the best price for that date since 1951. Egg prices did not change from October to November but were 25 cents higher than November 1972. Turkey prices also remained the same from October to November but the mid-November price of



37 cents a pound liveweight was 13 cents more than a year earlier and the best for that date in 20 years.

Corn prices declined 2 cents from October to November. The mid-November average of \$2.13 a bushel was 97 cents more than a year ago and only 2 cents under the record high for November set in 1947.

The mid-November oats price of \$1.20 a bushel was equal to the previous record high reached in January 1948. Oats increased 5 cents from October to November and was 42 cents above November 1972. Wheat prices had a record November average of \$4.12 a bushel, up 6 cents from the previous month and \$2.33 higher than a year ago.

Soybeans averaged \$5.04 a bushel for November, down 66 cents from October but \$1.74 greater than the previous year. Baled alfalfa hay increased \$1.50 a ton from October to November but at \$30.50 a ton on November 15 was 50 cents under a year earlier.

## CORN PLANT POPULATION LOWER IN 1973

Corn plant population in Wisconsin and most Corn Belt States showed slight to moderate declines in 1973. Information on corn development and yields is collected monthly from August through November by the Statistical Reporting Service as part of the corn objective yield program. Counts and measurements are made by trained enumerators during visits to random plots in a scientific sampling of fields in selected states. The trend in recent years has shown increases in plant population per acre but in 1973 the plant population in the Eastern Corn Belt States was 2 percent less than a year earlier and in the Western Corn Belt States 3 percent less. Based on a stalk count in nearly 150 sample plots, Wisconsin's corn plant population in 1973 was 18,300 plants per acre compared with 19,400 for 1972.

Plant Population per Acre of Corn for Grain 1/

States	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Ohio .....	17,700	18,200	16,900	18,200	18,200
Indiana .....	17,000	17,900	17,000	18,300	17,900
Illinois .....	18,600	18,100	18,000	19,100	19,100
Michigan .....	16,800	18,400	16,500	18,500	16,900
Wisconsin .....	17,600	18,800	18,100	19,400	18,300
Minnesota .....	18,200	18,400	18,600	19,000	18,300
Iowa .....	17,400	18,000	18,100	19,200	18,900
Missouri .....	15,000	14,600	14,800	15,300	15,300
South Dakota .....	12,000	12,200	11,900	12,800	12,600
Nebraska .....	15,600	16,400	16,000	16,900	15,400
Kansas .....	15,800	15,900	17,400	17,000	17,500

1/Population based on stalk count in sample plots selected for objective yield determinations.

Measurements of row spacing of corn for grain in Wisconsin in 1973 showed no change in the average row width from 1972. The State's average row width for 1973 was 37.3 inches, just slightly narrower, than the average in 1970 and 1971. Iowa also had an average row width of 37.3 inches for 1973 but other neighboring states had narrower spacings between corn rows. The most popular row width was between 36.6 and 38.5 inches in the majority of the Corn Belt States. Wisconsin had a greater percentage of its sample plots with a row width measurement of 38.6 to 40.5 inches in 1973 than in 1972.

Measured Row Spacing of Corn for Grain 1/

State and year	Row width groups (inches)					Average width
	34.5 & less	34.6 - 36.5	36.6 - 38.5	38.6 - 40.5	40.6 & greater	
	Percent of samples					Inches
Wisconsin						
1969 .....	9.1	14.4	29.6	33.3	13.6	37.9
1970 .....	13.1	11.7	35.2	29.7	10.3	37.4
1971 .....	13.5	11.7	38.0	27.6	9.2	37.4
1972 .....	18.1	9.7	31.3	31.2	9.7	37.3
1973 .....	18.0	12.5	27.1	35.5	6.9	37.3
Other States 2/						
Indiana .....	28.3	17.3	37.6	16.2	.6	35.5
Illinois .....	25.4	8.6	46.1	18.1	1.8	36.1
Iowa .....	15.9	6.4	39.1	31.2	7.4	37.3
Michigan .....	43.1	8.0	22.8	19.3	6.8	34.9
Minnesota .....	26.0	8.5	40.0	18.8	6.7	36.1

1/Spacings based on row measurements in sample plots selected for objective yield determinations. 2/Data for 1973.

## BUTTER STOCKS DOWN SHARPLY BUT CHEESE STOCKS ABOUT THE SAME

The Nation's cold storage stocks of butter at the end of November were 61 percent under a year earlier while cheese stocks were nearly the same as on November 30, 1972. There were less than 52 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of November, the lowest total for that date since 1966. Government stocks of butter amounted to about 26 million pounds compared with almost 120 million pounds on November 30, 1972.

Total cheese in cold storage for the Nation was 353 million pounds at the end of November. Stocks of American cheese amounted to 286 million pounds, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Although stocks of Swiss cheese in cold storage on November 30 were up 76 percent from last year, supplies of all other cheese were 1 percent below that date in 1972.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1971	Nov. 30, 1972	Nov. 30, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter .....	155,032	132,517	51,696	- 61
Cheese, American .....	250,876	291,670	285,819	- 2
Cheese, Swiss .....	8,084	7,784	13,728	+ 76
Cheese, all other .....	57,757	54,139	53,442	- 1
Cheese, total .....	316,717	353,593	352,989	n. c.
	WISCONSIN			
Butter .....	6,202	5,343	1,986	- 63
Cheese, American .....	143,083	187,580	169,572	- 10
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter .....	118,784	119,795	25,765	- 78
Cheese, American .....	3,494	200	427	+ 114

\*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products  
United States

Commodity	October 31, 1971	October 31, 1972	October 31, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk .....	6,423	4,823	7,592	+ 57
Dried skim milk .....	102,333	48,941	80,745	+ 65
Dried buttermilk .....	2,241	3,130	4,169	+ 33
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ ..	151,505	138,803	89,367	- 36

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.



## DECEMBER 1 HOG INVENTORY HIGHER

All hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1, 1973 totaled 1,575,000, an increase of 7 percent from a year earlier. Hogs being kept for breeding numbered 252,000, only 1,000 more than on December 1, 1972. Market hogs, at 1,323,000, were 8 percent more than a year ago.

A total of 100,000 sows farrowed on Wisconsin farms during September through November, the same figure as in that quarter in 1972. The pig crop of 740,000 for the September-November quarter was down 2 percent from the previous year. Litter rates for the third quarter of 1973 averaged 7.40 pigs compared with 7.55 pigs per litter in September-November 1972.

Wisconsin farmers intend to farrow 79,000 sows during December 1973 through February 1974. This would be an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier. Farrowings during March through May 1974 are expected to total 106,000 sows, 4 percent below that period in 1973.

The 10 Corn Belt States, including Wisconsin, had 46.7 million hogs and pigs on farms December 1, an increase of 5 percent from a year ago. These 10 States accounted for slightly over three-fourths of the Nation's total hog and pig inventory of 61 million on December 1, 1973. There were 6.5 million hogs being kept for breeding purposes in the 10 Corn Belt States, the same as on December 1, 1972. Market hogs totaled 40.2 million, up 6 percent from a year earlier.

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market  
December 1, 1972 and 1973, 10 States

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1972	1973	Change from last year	1972	1973	Change from last year	1972	1973	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Ohio .....	313	307	- 2	2,007	1,967	- 2	2,320	2,274	- 2
Indiana .....	640	634	- 1	4,210	4,241	+ 1	4,850	4,875	+ 1
Illinois .....	964	992	+ 3	5,686	6,358	+ 12	6,650	7,350	+ 11
Wisconsin .....	251	252	n. c.	1,224	1,323	+ 8	1,475	1,575	+ 7
Minnesota .....	568	596	+ 5	2,982	3,380	+ 13	3,550	3,976	+ 12
Iowa .....	2,030	2,010	- 1	12,170	12,690	+ 4	14,200	14,700	+ 4
Missouri .....	675	653	- 3	3,675	3,672	n. c.	4,350	4,325	- 1
S. Dakota .....	269	304	+ 13	1,524	1,871	+ 23	1,793	2,175	+ 21
Nebraska .....	479	460	- 4	2,821	2,995	+ 6	3,300	3,455	+ 5
Kansas .....	305	290	- 5	1,795	1,710	- 5	2,100	2,000	- 5
Total 10 states ..	6,494	6,498	n. c.	38,094	40,207	+ 6	44,588	46,705	+ 5

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop  
September through November, 1972 and 1973, 10 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 1/		
	1972	1973	Change from last year	1972	1973	1972	1973	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Ohio .....	120	110	- 8	7.20	7.10	864	781	- 10
Indiana .....	215	210	- 2	7.26	7.00	1,561	1,470	- 6
Illinois .....	377	395	+ 1	7.00	6.95	2,639	2,745	+ 4
Wisconsin .....	100	100	n. c.	7.55	7.40	755	740	- 2
Minnesota .....	185	206	+ 11	7.20	7.30	1,332	1,504	+ 13
Iowa .....	670	608	- 9	6.95	7.20	4,657	4,378	- 6
Missouri .....	265	256	- 3	7.00	6.90	1,855	1,766	- 5
South Dakota .....	96	116	+ 21	7.00	7.20	672	835	+ 24
Nebraska .....	190	185	- 3	7.20	7.20	1,368	1,332	- 3
Kansas .....	118	105	- 11	7.50	7.35	885	772	- 13
Total 10 states ..	2,336	2,291	- 2	7.10	7.12	16,588	16,323	- 2

1/Number of pigs born September through November that were still on hand December 1 or had been sold.

Sows to Farrow, December through May, 10 States

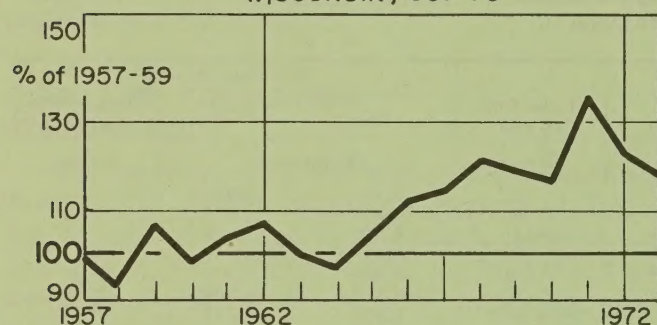
State	December 1/ through February			March through May		
	1973	1974 2/	Change from last year	1973	1974 2/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Ohio .....	100	93	- 7	125	125	n. c.
Indiana .....	235	220	- 6	250	240	- 4
Illinois .....	329	330	n. c.	500	520	+ 4
Wisconsin .....	75	79	+ 5	110	106	- 4
Minnesota .....	164	180	+ 10	245	260	+ 6
Iowa .....	485	510	+ 5	980	960	- 2
Missouri .....	210	205	- 2	279	280	n. c.
South Dakota .....	75	90	+ 20	168	180	+ 7
Nebraska .....	147	135	- 8	215	215	n. c.
Kansas .....	103	100	- 3	125	120	- 4
Total 10 states ..	1,923	1,942	+ 1	2,997	3,006	n. c.

1/December of preceding year. 2/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.



## DECEMBER CROP REPORT

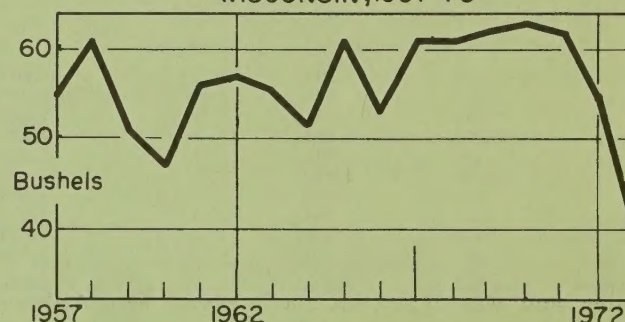
Wisconsin farmers had nearly all of their crops harvested by the first of December in contrast to 1972 when 10 percent of the corn and 15 percent of the soybeans were still in the fields when a heavy snowstorm stopped harvesting on December 12th. Excellent fall weather in 1973 enabled farmers to harvest their crops and to make fine progress on land preparation for the 1974 crop season. Production of crops in 1973 was generally lower than in 1972 because of a late planting season and dry weather during the summer. Based on conditions as of November 1, the crop production index for 1973 was 118 percent of the 1957-59 base, down 5 percentage points from 1972.

CROP PRODUCTION INDEX  
WISCONSIN, 1957-73

Spring field work began in March but was severely restricted by wet grounds in April and May. Normally 29 percent of the rainfall during the growing season falls during

April and May but 47 percent fell in those two months in 1973. June began warm and dry which was helpful for completing unfinished planting and giving a boost to crop growth that had lagged during a cool April and May. The dry weather of June and July affected crop yields, especially the late planted oats, corn, and second crop hay. Rain in August improved crop development in the west and northwest but the southeast remained dry until September.

Small grain yields were cut drastically by warm, dry weather in June and July. Oats yielded only 41 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1949. Production at 56,170,000 bushels was the smallest since 1910. Barley yields were down considerably from 1972. Wheat acreage was a record low when wet weather in the fall of 1972 and the spring of 1973 prevented farmers from sowing all their intended acreage. The 1973 rye crop was the smallest ever harvested. Although winter wheat and rye came through the winter in

OATS: Average Yield per Acre  
WISCONSIN, 1957-73

## Crop Summary of Wisconsin for December 1, 1973\*

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1971	1972	1973 (prelimi- nary)	1971	1972	1973 (prelimi- nary)		1971	1972	1973 (prelimi- nary)
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain . . . . .	2,304	2,143	2,050	98.0	95.0	86.0	Bu.	225,792	203,585	176,300
Oats . . . . .	1,535	1,350	1,370	62.0	55.0	41.0	Bu.	95,170	74,250	56,170
Barley . . . . .	28	22	21	55.0	45.0	37.0	Bu.	1,540	990	777
Rye . . . . .	12	10	9	24.0	21.0	19.5	Bu.	288	210	176
Wheat (all) . . . . .	35	29	27	37.5	31.1	33.0	Bu.	1,314	901	890
Winter . . . . .	22	20	16	42.0	32.0	35.0	Bu.	924	640	560
Spring . . . . .	13	9	11	30.0	29.0	30.0	Bu.	390	261	330
Soybeans for beans . . . . .	128	145	236	23.5	28.0	23.0	Bu.	3,008	4,060	5,428
Potatoes (Fall) . . . . .	51.5	45.5	47.0	256	253	245	Cwt.	13,183	11,530	11,515
Tobacco (all) . . . . .	10.6	10.8	10.2	2,125	1,727	1,950	Lb.	22,525	18,650	19,890
Type 54 . . . . .	5.3	5.0	4.9	2,270	1,700	1,950	Lb.	12,031	8,500	9,555
Type 55 . . . . .	5.3	5.8	5.3	1,980	1,750	1,950	Lb.	10,494	10,150	10,335
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all) . . . . .	3,987	3,920	4,070	2.78	2.60	2.56	Ton	11,083	10,203	10,401
Alfalfa and mixture . . . . .	3,017	2,950	3,090	2.95	2.85	2.70	Ton	8,900	8,408	8,343
All other . . . . .	970	970	980	2.25	1.85	2.10	Ton	2,183	1,795	2,058
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots 1/ . . . . .	1.6	1.7	1.4	415	400	370	Cwt.	666	679	518
Cabbage 1/ . . . . .	3.2	3.8	2.3	345	315	240	Cwt.	1,101	1,204	552
Lettuce 1/ . . . . .	1.6	.9	1.1	220	210	250	Cwt.	352	189	275
Mint for oil . . . . .	10.3	4.5	6.4	43	30	38	Cwt.	443	135	243
Onions, commercial . . . . .	1.6	1.5	1.4	235	250	280	Cwt.	376	375	392
For processing:										
Green lima beans . . . . .	5.3	6.4	7.4	1.25	.82	.93	Ton 2/	6.7	5.3	6.9
Peas . . . . .	125.1	122.2	123.2	1.17	1.34	.99	Ton 2/	146.4	163.8	122.0
Snap beans . . . . .	50.1	45.5	55.7	2.59	2.67	2.47	Ton	129.8	121.5	137.6
Sweet corn . . . . .	117.9	113.5	132.6	4.57	4.54	3.85	Ton	538.8	515.3	510.5
Beets for canning . . . . .	5.8	4.5	6.6	11.66	14.00	9.18	Ton	67.7	63.0	60.6
Cucumbers for pickles . . . . .	8.2	9.0	10.4	5.04	4.77	4.91	Ton	41.4	43.0	51.1
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, commercial . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	65,000	65,000	50,000
Tart cherries . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	8.4	4.6	2.6
Cranberries . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	742	805	790
Strawberries . . . . .	1.5	1.4	1.4	29	23	27	Cwt.	44	32	38

\*The final crop summary for 1973 will be released on January 16, 1974. 1/Summer acreage. 2/Shelled.



good shape, the dry weather in June reduced yields as the crops were heading out. Straw supplies in 1973 were again very short.

Production of corn for grain was lower in 1973 as late plantings and dry summer weather reduced yields and the acreage harvested for grain. Silage yields were also below 1972 but acreage increased. Soybean acreage showed a big increase in 1973 and production was consequently higher although the yields did not match the record 28 bushels per acre in 1972. First crop hay yields were better than in 1972 but the hay had a high content of grass and weeds as alfalfa suffered in the wet fall of 1972 and spring of 1973. Second crop hay was mostly short because of dry weather after first cuttings.

Tobacco, potatoes, strawberries, and cranberries produced good crops. The apple and cherry crops were reduced by poor pollination. Home gardens were very good but commercial vegetable yields were quite variable. Harvesting weather in 1973 was much better than in 1972 and as a result the quality of crops was mostly good. The fine harvesting conditions allowed farmers and processors to harvest much of the planted acreage in contrast to 1972 when substantial acreage was lost to poor harvesting weather.

### RED MEAT PRODUCTION HIGHER IN OCTOBER

Red meat production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during October increased about 17 percent from September and was 5 percent above a year ago. Although pork production was down 6 percent from October 1972, the output of beef increased 13 percent.

Cattle slaughter in Wisconsin during October numbered 109,000, up 10,500 from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in October was 1,135 pounds, 26 pounds heavier than the previous year.

The October hog kill of 254,000 was 33,000 under October 1972. Hogs averaged 242 pounds liveweight for October, a gain of 14 pounds from a year ago.

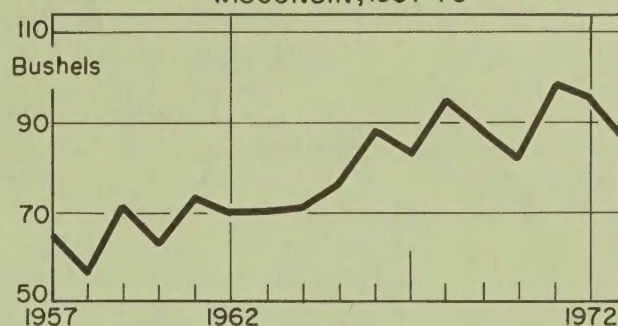
Calf slaughter in October totaled 23,200, an increase of 6,000 from a year earlier. The average liveweight of calves butchered in October was 147 pounds, down 38 pounds from last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter for October was 600, the same as October 1972.

#### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	October		Change from last year	October	
	1972	1973		1972	1973
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin . . . . .	98.5	109.0	+ 11	109.2	123.7
United States 1/ . . .	3,192.0	3,147.2	— 1	3,330.6	3,299.5
Calves					
Wisconsin . . . . .	17.2	23.2	+ 35	3.2	3.4
United States 1/ . . .	258.6	206.1	— 20	66.1	50.1
Hogs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	287.0	254.0	— 11	65.4	61.5
United States 1/ . . .	7,492.5	6,993.5	— 7	1,790.0	1,689.4
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.6	.6	n. c.	.059	.057
United States 1/ . . .	971.2	951.8	— 2	102.4	100.6

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

### CORN for GRAIN: Average Yield per Acre WISCONSIN, 1957-73



### MEAT STOCKS EXCEED A YEAR AGO

The Nation's cold storage stocks of meat at the end of November were 4 percent above a year ago. This was the first time that meat stocks were higher than a year earlier since December 31, 1971. Beef stocks in cold storage at the end of November were up 3 percent from last year while pork stocks had an increase of 12 percent.

There were over 360 million pounds of beef in cold storage on November 30, an increase of almost 43 million pounds from a month earlier and 9 million pounds above the previous year. Cold storage supplies of pork on November 30 amounted to 271 million pounds compared with 223½ million pounds at the end of October and 242 million pounds on November 30, 1972. Stocks of frozen pork bellies more than doubled during November to nearly 35 million pounds, ½ million pounds above a year ago.

#### Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1971	Nov. 30, 1972	Oct. 31, 1973	Nov. 30, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen .....	318,551	340,097	304,016	344,356	+ 1
In cure and cured .....	8,332	11,255	13,966	16,245	+ 44
Total .....	326,883	351,352	317,982	360,601	+ 3
Pork:					
Frozen .....	301,417	221,483	208,667	252,998	+ 14
In cooler .....	23,920	20,835	14,872	18,061	- 13
Total .....	325,337	242,318	223,539	271,059	+ 12
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen .....	8,127	11,894	8,988	9,776	- 18
Lamb and mutton, frozen .....	18,626	17,200	15,504	14,160	- 18
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams .....	59,921	61,687	66,525	59,982	- 3
Other meats .....	17,098	17,519	14,233	13,629	- 22
Total, all meats .....	755,992	701,970	646,771	729,207	+ 4

### BEEF CATTLE PRICES CONTINUE DOWNWARD

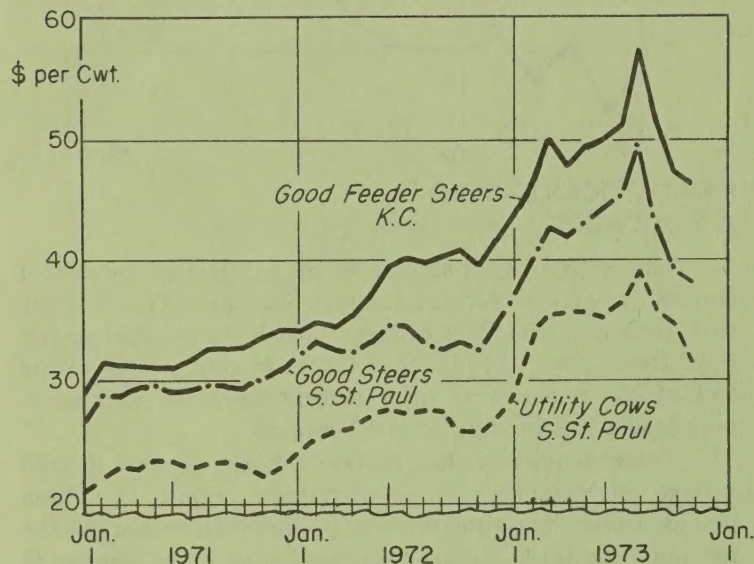
Prices of beef cattle at the St. Paul and Kansas City markets continued to decline during November. Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$38.13 a hundredweight at St. Paul in November, down \$1.47 from October and the lowest since January 1973. The November price was \$5.47 above a year ago however. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$31.50 a hundredweight for November, a decline of \$2.85 from the previous month but \$5.84 higher than November 1972. Good grade feeder steers weighing be-



tween 600-700 pounds averaged \$46.48 a hundredweight in November, down \$1.20 from October and about \$11.00 below the high reached in August. A year ago in November, good grade feeder steers at Kansas City averaged \$39.75 a hundredweight.

### BEEF CATTLE PRICES

S. St. Paul & Kansas City Monthly Averages 1971, 72, 73



### BARROW AND GILT PRICES DECLINE

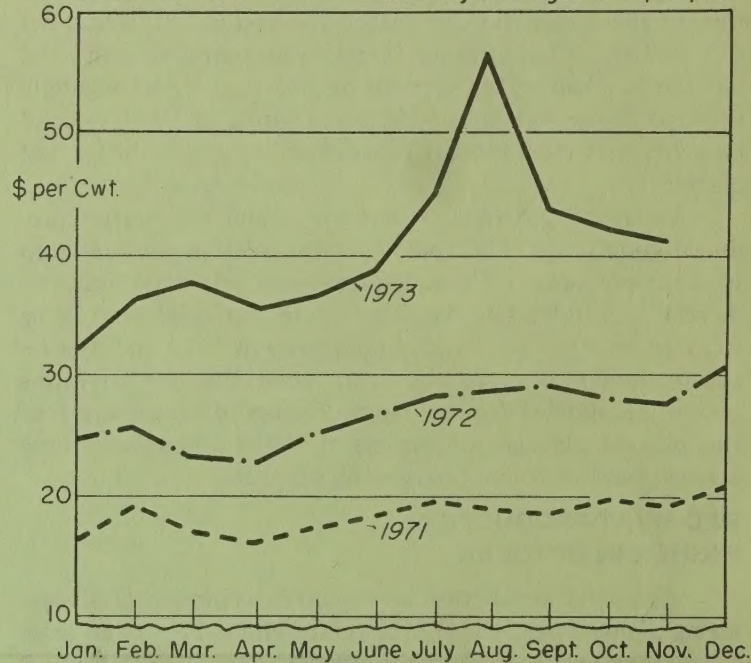
Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market aver-

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aged \$41.35 a hundredweight during November, a decline of almost \$1.00 from a month earlier and \$15.25 under the record high set in August 1973. This was the third consecutive month of lower prices for barrows and gilts but the November average was \$13.64 above last year.

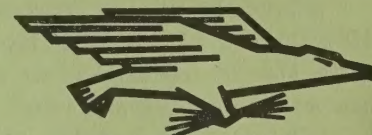
### BARROW and GILT PRICES

South St. Paul Monthly Averages 1971, 72, 73



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